

## All hijacked passengers released

ROME (R) — All 91 passengers and six crew members on board a Dutch plane hijacked to Rome were released unharmed on Wednesday, Italian Transport Minister Calogero Mannino said. Mr. Mannino told reporters at Rome's Fiumicino airport: "All passengers and crew have been released after brief but intense negotiations." Mr. Mannino said police had arrested the Dutch hijacker, who was 17 years old. Mr. Mannino said there were 91 passengers and six crew aboard the Boeing 737 owned by the Dutch national airline KLM. He told Reuters the youth, a Dutch boy of Italian origin, had asked for \$1 million, an air ticket to New York, and a hotel room in the American city. The minister said he was now being questioned by police. Relieved passengers entered the main airport lounge smiling and joking after their release. All were unharmed. One Italian man, who declined to be named, told reporters the youth had a clock which he pretended was a timer for a bomb. "I think he was mad," the passenger said.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## Happy Christmas

The Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, Dec. 16, due to the Christmas holiday on Friday, Dec. 25. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Sunday, Dec. 27. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a Merry Christmas.

## Yaze returns

MMAN (Petra) — Lower house of Parliament Speaker Kef Al Yaze returned from the U.S. on Wednesday after undergoing a successful surgery there. Mr. Yaze was received upon arrival by a number of members of the Upper and Lower houses of Parliament, tribal leaders and notables.

## Abat awaits response to OIC move

ABAT (R) — Six countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) have agreed to attend a special Islamic meeting called by Morocco's King Hassan to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. The official news agency MAP said Jordan, Mauritania, Senegal,ger, Bangladesh and the PLO would attend the foreign ministers' meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jerusalem Committee in Morocco next week. Diplomatic sources said Pakistan had also agreed to attend. Replies were awaited from the other committee members — Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Tunisia, Indonesia, Lebanon, Syria and Iran.

## Sharaa ends sit in Iran

COSIA (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa left Tehran on Wednesday after Syria and Iran issued a statement of support for Palestinians in the occupied territories. In the statement, the two countries pressed "their complete and round support for Palestinian fighters in their struggle against the Zionist regime," Tehran radio reported. Earlier, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that Sharaa met with President Khamenei and handed him a letter from President Hafez Al Assad of Syria.

## AE leader gives in to Palestinians

ABU DHABI (R) — The official news agency WAM said Wednesday UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan had donated \$1 million in support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Sheikh Zayed's donation illustrates the UAE's sympathy and identify with the struggle and steadfastness of the Palestinian people, WAM said.

## Syrians killed in West Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen shot dead two Syrian soldiers in west Beirut on Wednesday, police said, in a fresh blow to Syria's military presence in Lebanon. A spokesman said the gunmen killed the soldiers with pistols equipped with silencers and then dumped the bodies in the busy neighbourhood. Syrian officials used to comment. Witnesses said Syrian troops with automatic weapons rushed to the area, sealed streets and set up checkpoints a hunt for the killers.

## Yuz craft backs with Mir

MOSCOW (AP) — Three Soviet astronauts on Wednesday piloted their Soyuz TM-4 capsule to the Mir space station to work with two space comrades for a week, then replace the senior holding the world record for endurance. The TASS news agency said the Soyuz TM-4 capsule under the command of cosmonaut Titov docked with the station at 1251 GMT.

## Their Majesties return home after 3-day state visit to Soviet Union

King voices total satisfaction with outcome of talks with Gromyko and Gorbachev and confidence that Moscow will seek end to Gulf war

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer  
with agency dispatches

### THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Wednesday after a three-day state visit to the Soviet Union.

During the visit, the King held two rounds of talks with Soviet President Andrei Gromyko and met for three hours with Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev (See story on right).

The King's talks with the Soviet leaders covered bilateral relations and international issues, with special focus on the Middle East situation and the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

At a press conference before his departure, King Hussein praised the Soviet attitude towards bringing about a ceasefire in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, he said.

The Soviet Union had agreed on the need for measures to bring about the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, he said.

Asked whether this meant that the Soviet Union was now ready to press for an arms embargo against Iran in order to bring pressure on it to accept a ceasefire, the King said only that the most urgent task was to end the war.

On Tuesday, Mr. Gorbachev indicated during talks with the King that Moscow could be ready to consider an embargo, saying that the Soviet Union "is not against examining this question in the U.N. Security Council."

Previously, the Soviet Union had refused to consider an arms embargo until foreign warships are withdrawn from the Gulf and replaced by an international force.

King Hussein said the problem of foreign ships in the Gulf "would be resolved by the ending of the war."

In reply to a question, the King said efforts should be made to

remove all tension and reducing armaments in the world at large. He said that the Middle East was an important region linking the continents and abundant with natural resources needed by nations. Therefore, he said, this region should be made to live in peace.

The results of the talks with the Soviet leadership, the King said, will be conveyed to all Arab leaders.

In reply to another question, the King said that Israel was a nuclear power but to date it had not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, "but I cannot discuss all the details about the talks with the Soviet leaders."

The King and Queen were accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasim, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid

(Continued on page 3)

## Israel begins mass arrests, announces other strong-arm action over protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers arrested hundreds of Palestinians in a sweep through towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza on Wednesday in bid to break one of the most violent waves of anti-Israeli protests since the areas were occupied 20 years ago.

Defying U.S. and U.N. protests against excessive measures, the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said the army was ordered to "shoot to hit" the leaders of demonstrations gone out of control and to expel or imprison ringleaders without trial.

Despite the strong-arm measures, stone-throwing and tyre-burning incidents were reported. But Palestinian and Israeli military sources reported no major clashes.

Reporting to parliament, Rabin said 21 Palestinians had been killed and 158 wounded in the clashes. He said 31 Israeli soldiers and 19 others were wounded.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the West Bank and Gaza, put the number of Arab dead at 25. The news service said it had

the cabinet's 10-man security committee and won an endorsement from the prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, on their "iron-fist" measures.

But a former defence minister, Ezer Weizman, who has urged the army to disengage from trouble spots such as refugee camps to avoid bloodshed, demanded a debate on the policy. It was scheduled for Thursday, Israel Radio said.

The daily Hadashot newspaper said dozens of arrests were made overnight and that soldiers raided homes in the Gaza towns of Rafah, Khan Younis and Gaza City. An Arab reporter in Gaza said a large number of arrests were made there overnight.

Government grade schools have been closed until next Sunday, keeping home 280,000 from 800 schools in the West Bank and 70,000 in 92 schools in the Gaza Strip.

The army also closed two teachers colleges, one community college and a technical school in the West Bank for a period of one month.

Tyre-burning and stone throwing was reported in the west Bank and Gaza Strip but the level of violence tapered off for the

second straight day.

In Gaza City, witnesses said demonstrators burned two cars on Omar Al Mukhtar street, the main shopping centre. Soldiers ordered Arab motorists to clear away the debris. A commercial strike remained in force except in areas where the army forced open shops.

Al Quds, the largest Arabic-language newspaper in Jerusalem, was barred from distribution in the West Bank and Gaza, although it may be sold in Arab Jerusalem.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose leadership is in crisis session over the violence in the occupied territories, is considering the creation of a government-in-exile, a senior PLO official said on Wednesday.

The idea, which has been proposed and rejected in the past, was discussed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and the 15-member PLO executive committee at meetings in Tunis, a spokesman for a PLO group represented at the meetings told Reuters.

"One of the ideas being discussed is a government-in-exile which, at the right moment, would declare the establishment of an independent state in the occupied territories," Jamiel Helal, spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said.

The PLO leadership has been in continuous session over the protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It met late into the night on Tuesday and met again on Wednesday in Tunis.

The PLO has in the past refrained from naming a government-in-exile.

### Mitterrand: No Gulf withdrawal

PARIS (AP) — President François Mitterrand, on the second day of a two-day visit to Djibouti on Wednesday, said France's mission in the Gulf was not finished and its vessels will remain.

Interviewed by French television Antenne-2 aboard the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, Mr. Mitterrand said the mission of the French fleet since it was dispatched to the Gulf region in July has been to limit the risk for oil tankers protect French interests and prevent a seismic force. He said the fleet in the Gulf, part of a larger 25-vessel unit called Task Force 623, would remain in the region. Mr. Mitterrand left Djibouti for Egypt where he will spend Christmas day.

The resolution says the council "strongly deplores" Israeli action in the occupied territories, and calls Israel the "occupying power." It recalls earlier Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian question.

## Spirit of candour and understanding characterise Jordanian-Soviet talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Kremlin on Tuesday and the Soviet news agency TASS said the talks were marked by the spirit of candour and mutual understanding on issues of Soviet-Jordanian relations and topical international problems.

Greeting the visitor, Mr. Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union valued relations with Jordan and appreciated the King's efforts to promote cooperation between the two countries. Soviet-Jordanian relations were successfully developing in various areas.

King Hussein said that Jordan took pride in relations with the Soviet Union which were based on mutual understanding, trust and confidence in each other. He emphasised that

processes taking place in the Soviet Union evoked immense interest in Arab, in non-aligned countries. Great hopes for improvement in the international situation and a better future for all of mankind were being pinned on Soviet foreign policy initiatives.

The Jordanian head of state highly praised in this connection the Soviet-American accords reached in Washington, and expressed the hope that they would have a positive effect on the settlement of regional conflicts which posed a serious potential threat to peace and security.

(Continued on page 2)

## Crown Prince: U.N. approval of NIHO is a tribute to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The adoption by the General Assembly of a Jordanian-sponsored resolution proposing the establishment of a New International Humanitarian Order (NIHO) is a matter of pride for Jordan and emphasised the leading role the Kingdom plays in international humanitarian affairs. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday.

The Crown Prince said the resolution, which was approved by the General Assembly earlier this month, was the most substantive of a series which began some years ago and that he "did not expect the matter to assume the importance it has."

"This year's resolution is related to the final report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICIH) which itself came into being as a result of the proposal I made," said the Crown Prince in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The Crown Prince also paid tribute to the support extended to the resolution by the Soviet Union and said: "This corresponds to the new policies of the Soviet leadership, represented by 'glasnost' (openness). I think the Soviet attitude is a vital factor in the global improvement of the human condition."

Replies to questions, the Crown Prince explained the concept of NIHO. "It is a comprehensive concept which encompasses a range of humanitarian issues resulting from ills that afflict contemporary society and disasters which are mainly man-made. The approach is action-oriented and the emphasis is on reflection and identification of alternative solutions."

But it is not new in the sense of a recent invention. It is a process which began with the Declaration of Human Rights after World War II and whose momentum must be maintained to keep pace with new developments and new problems emerging in a fast-changing world. Usually, helping the needy is viewed in a context of charity which often amounts to throwing money at problems rather than addressing the root causes. Furthermore, the humanitarian aspects of global issues are seldom given as much attention as purely economic, political or security matters. In practical terms, helping the needy is useful but helping them to help themselves is even better because it leads to self-reliance and self-sufficiency. In that sense, NIHO is a thought process intended to affect policies and practices in the humanitarian field. This may sound grandiose but some modest beginning has to be made by someone somewhere in order to facilitate the process.

In this age of scientific and technological progress, human wisdom must keep pace with human knowledge and human well-being must remain the focal point of all activities by states and individuals alike. This was one of the motives behind the establishment of ICIH.

Q: What were the objectives of ICIH? Have they been achieved in your view?

A: The humanitarian process in which Jordan is playing a leading role has nothing to do with the resources of the country. In reality, the very fact that we are a small country with limited resources lends credibility to our humanitarian efforts. The action in the General Assembly which is only one part of the overall pro-

cess gives to Jordan a humanitarian profile of which we can be proud. Alleviation of human suffering and the search for ethical solutions through the ever growing humanitarian problems should be the concern of all nations, big and small, and of all men of goodwill. Humanitarianism is a cornerstone of our national policies. His Majesty has always stressed the importance of human welfare and pleaded for politics where people matter.

Q: What does NIHO mean to you and how can it help people in a concrete way?

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A: ICIH was established with a limited life-span and a modest programme of work which inevitably expanded as we progressed. Composed of eminent persons, representing all parts of the world and different cultures and trends, the commission concentrated on three areas: humanitarian norms in armed conflicts; man-made catastrophes, ranging from famine to nuclear disasters and vulnerable groups in need of special protection such as refugees, indigenous peoples, stateless persons, etc.

The commission has issued a number of reports on specific issues which have been published in many languages on all continents and whose recommendations have had an impact on

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## NRA finds new gas deposits at Al Risha

AMMAN (J.T.) — Drilling at a new well in the Risha district near the border with Iraq has resulted in the discovery of further deposits of gas, boosting the Kingdom's gas reserves and raising hopes of solving the energy problem in the future.

Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Director Kamal Jureisat said he had reason to believe that more quantities of gas and also oil would be found in the same region.

The NRA, whose teams made the discovery, will continue its search programmes to find gas and oil, Mr. Jureisat said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The United States, one of the five permanent council members with veto power, had threatened to vote against the resolution if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and supporters tried to push through a measure condemning Israel outright.

The compromise adopted still was objectionable in some ways to the U.S. administration, but not intolerable.

The resolution says the council "strongly deplores" Israeli action in the occupied territories, and calls Israel the "occupying power." It recalls earlier Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian question.

Last September, the NRA announced the discovery of a gas well at Al Risha region and, according to Mr. Jureisat, it now produces 15 million cubic metres a day, corresponding to nearly 2,500 barrels of oil.

The new gas finds are expected to cut natural oil import bill which last year topped \$600 million, equivalent to 90 per cent of the Kingdom's export earnings.

Jordan's only other hydrocarbon production is from the small Hamzeh field, also in the north,

and west of Reisah. Although the field produces a high quality, low sulfur oil, output is a sporadic 600 barrels a day.

Production from the Hamzeh field covers only one per cent of the country's energy consumption, according to Finance Minister Hanna Odeh.

# Accuracy of Iraqi air raids hits hard at Iranian oil shuttle fleet

DUBAI (R) — Stretched across 550-miles of hostile waters, the fragile tanker lifeline fuelling Iran's massed armies has left a graveyard of men and metal costing Tehran much more than shippers previously thought.

Harried by Iraq's Mirage fighter-bombers, two shuttle fleets of tankers hug the Gulf eastern coast in a dual operation vital to the Iranian war effort.

At least 67 tankers and their crews took part in this oil-and-products seaborne conveyor during 1987, according to regional shipping sources. They say the oil-shuttle armada is much bigger than previously estimated.

The accuracy of Iraq's attacking aircraft ensures that not all vessels are on duty at any one time.

"The Iranians are badly hurt. There is no failure to move its oil, but the Iraqi attacks are making the process much more difficult, expensive and dangerous," one shipping source said.

"There is a tremendous cost in damage and delays in the flow of oil that goes to feed Iran's group war effort."

Hardest hit is the main oil export shuttle fleet which the sources say involved some 39 vessels over the year. At least 26 of these have been hit in the last year, with 13 still out of action and five or six total write-offs, the sources say.

The sources said six damaged ships were presently moored off the Iranian island of Qeshm at the mouth of the Gulf, awaiting repair assessment.

The fleet, carrying crude oil for export, runs from Kharg Island, Iran's main oil terminal in the north of the Gulf, to mother storage ships in the south — at Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

The dollars it earns finance Iran's war machine and the tankers are the declared prime target of Iraqi pilots.

One of the most recent victims on the shuttle was the Iranian supertanker Sustangard which is expected to be declared a total write-off after two successive Iraqi attacks two weeks ago.

Twenty-one seamen died in the raids on the Norwegian-managed tanker, the highest merchant ship death toll since the tanker war flared three years ago.

Tuesday's long-distance raid on the mother storage ships at Larak highlighted another major, though more difficult and distant, target for Iraq.

Shipping sources say Iran has nine crude oil storage mother

ships at Larak used to hold oil for customer pick-up. One of the nine, the World Petrobras was badly damaged on the 564,739-tonne Seawise Giant, the world's biggest ship, and the Burman Enterprise were slightly damaged.

Apart from the problem of exporting crude, Iran ironically also faces difficulties importing oil products which it cannot produce itself after Iraqi strikes on refineries.

This is the job of the second shuttle fleet — carrying oil products up the dangerous stretches of the waterway known as "Exocet alley," literally to fuel the machinery of war.

At least 71 merchant seamen have lost their lives in the alley this year, though not all on Iranian shipping. Iran retaliates for attacks, striking at ships operated by or for supporters of Iraq.

Eight refined products mother storage tankers are operated by Iran of which one, the Shining Star was badly damaged last October. Shipping sources say it could be a total loss.

Two others, the World Admiral and Legacy, were slightly damaged in the October raid.

But despite the dangers at terminal or snaking up the Gulf, crewmen and tankers still queue up for jobs.

Seamen on the shuttle run, usually Indian, Filipino, Greek or Norwegian, receive at least treble

normal pay. Flat rates vary according to the company but British sea captains often get a £20,000 bonus each month, while Norwegian officers receive around three times their normal £7,000 a month salary.

Filipino crewmen receive around \$5,000 a month, and Indians \$1,000, the sources said.

The Iranians use damage write-off vessels as decoys for Iraqi raids on Kharg. Two of which were knocked out this year — the Cypriot supertanker Polycor and the Panamanian supertanker Fuji Orient — have each been hit 20 times.

With Exocet missiles costing Iraq around \$1.2 million apiece, the decoys are of more value to Tehran than they would be if sold as scrap metal.

The other damaged tankers usually head for Dubai, Bahrain or the Far East for repairs. One, the Greek supertanker Actina, completed repairs in Bahrain in November but was then hit twice on Dec. 1 as it sailed fully laden from Kharg.

With ships under constant attack, the National Iranian Tanker Company has been forced to keep chartering new vessels for escalating fees.

Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence said one supertanker, the 280,108-tonne Norwegian Happy Pilot, was chartered on Dec. 3 for \$13,000 a day.

## Candour and understanding characterise Moscow talks

(Continued from page 1)

The Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev said, was firmly committed to facilitating the normalisation of the situation in the world and taking international relations onto the road of constructive cooperation.

During the Washington summit, the Soviet Union persistently called on the U.S. to cooperate with all sides concerned in order to defuse conflict situations in the Near and Middle East, in the Persian Gulf, in Central America and other regions. It was emphasised that the search for settlement through political means on the basis of legitimate interests of all sides was increasingly active in those regions.

"Such is the Soviet Union's approach to this forum. It sensibly combines principledness, flexibility and realism, the readiness to take into consideration various viewpoints. The Soviet Union is going to continue interacting seriously and responsibly with all those who intend to make a constructive contribution to defusing the Middle East conflict."

Mr. Gorbachev and King Hussein were unanimous that a comprehensive and fair Middle East settlement could only be achieved through convening a competent international conference. It was only in this way, by concerted effort, on the basis of honest cooperation, that it was possible to bring to a common denominator the interests of Arabs, including Palestinians, of Israel and other states.

King Hussein spoke about the results of the Arab summit conference held last November in Amman. He noted that the idea of convening an international conference was supported by the participants at the Amman summit.

Great importance of joint actions of Arab states in the interests of a fair solution to the Middle East problem was noted in this connection.

The interlocutors widely discussed the questions connected with the Iran-Iraq conflict and the situation in the Persian Gulf. The common awareness was noted that the aggravation of the situation in the region requires vigorous, energetic actions.

Mr. Gorbachev emphasised that the Soviet Union strongly favours an early end to that war, the settlement of disputed questions by political means with the observance of lawful interests of both Iraq and Iran. It implements this fine consistently in contacts with all the sides.

The Soviet and Jordanian leaders noted that the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 598 remains the real basis for taking effective steps towards peace.

In connection with the lack of real progress in the process of negotiations, King Hussein, referring to the decision of the Amman summit, declared in favour of the Security Council's adopting a resolution on the

embargo on arms deliveries to Iran as the side that refuses to comply with the Security Council's decisions.

Mr. Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union, while continuing to declare for the implementation of Resolution 598, is not against considering this question at the United Nations Security Council. But there are doubts if those who declare for embargo the loudest, and who, by the way, were caught at secretly supplying arms to Iran will be observing the embargo.

And this is of no little importance for the matter. The Soviet Union does not supply arms to Iran.

"We deem it necessary to use every means for ending the war, including those envisaged by the United Nations Charter," Mr. Gorbachev went on. "A great deal will depend on this on the warring sides themselves, on their readiness to carry the matters to genuine settlement on the basis of reasonable compromise."

"The Soviet Union will be promoting this process in every way, will be vigorously supporting collective efforts giving an impetus to the continuation of the talks. Clear-cut and concrete directives were given to the Soviet representative at the United Nations to this effect."

In considering bilateral relations, the sides expressed satisfaction with their overall state and noted reciprocal interest in the further development of trade and economic cooperation especially of way of using new forms of economic ties.

Mr. Ryzhkov described profound changes currently under way in the Soviet Union in all spheres of life or society — political, social, economic and spiritual, and the radical reform of economic management.

In discussing the situation in the Middle East, the heads of the two governments expressed the conviction that the search for a fair comprehensive Middle East settlement, including that of the Palestinian problem, should be conducted within the framework of a competent international conference under the U.N. auspices with the participation of all sides directly concerned and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The sides were unanimous about the need for the earliest cessation of the Iran-Iraq war by peaceful political means. This effort should be facilitated by all countries which were sincerely striving towards lasting peace in the region.

The conversation was constructive in character and passed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

King Hussein invited the

general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to make an official visit to Jordan. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Rifai meets Ryzhkov

The Prime Minister, Mr. Zaid Rifai, held talks on Tuesday with Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

In discussing international problems, the sides expressed confidence that practical steps on arms control and disarmament were a necessary condition for preserving peace and for the successful solution of acute economic and social problems facing mankind.

It was observed in this connection that the conclusion of the Soviet-American treaty on the elimination of their medium- and shorter-range missiles was an historic step along the road towards ending the nuclear arms race and towards disarmament.

Mr. Rifai highly assessed the Soviet peace initiatives directed at averting nuclear catastrophe and strengthening peace and international security.

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## Cuba denies official contacts with Israel

HAVANA (R) — The Cuban government has denied reports that it held official talks with representatives of Israel to discuss renewing diplomatic relations between the two nations.

The official Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying "meetings between Cuban leaders and representatives of the International Jewish Community did not take place for political and economic

reasons of another nature, owing to the position of these persons as businessmen and political figures in their respective nations."

It added there had not been official contacts between Cuban and Israeli diplomatic representatives.

The Foreign Ministry statement did not name the representatives of the International Jewish Community nor did it give further details on the meetings.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking on behalf of the Budget Ministry, said: "the material mentioned was never shipped. Therefore it could not have been re-routed."

## Chirac government denies new report on Iran arms sales

PARIS (R) — The French government has denied allegations in a French newspaper that secret arms sales to Iran have continued throughout Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's 21 months in office.

The prestigious French daily *Le Monde* said an investigation in Portugal by its reporters indicated that supplies of weapons and explosives destined for that country in 1986 and 1987 were channelled instead to Tehran, despite government pledges to the contrary.

But a Defence Ministry spokesman, speaking on behalf of the Budget Ministry, said: "the material mentioned was never shipped. Therefore it could not have been re-routed."

"We say bluntly to the Americans and the Israelis that this is an unrealistic approach. This course runs counter to the interests of Arabs and Israel alike."

"The international conference," Mr. Gorbachev stressed, "must not be a cover for separate arrangements. The attempts to take the road of separate deals

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Tubeishat wins new term as Irbid mayor

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Wednesday decided to appoint Dr. Abdul Razzak Tubeishat as mayor of the northern city of Irbid for another term. Dr. Tubeishat, who secured 9,887 votes in last week's municipal election held in Irbid, had the highest number of votes obtained by any of the other eight candidates who ran for the nine-member municipal council.

## Their Majesties return after Soviet visit

(Continued from page 1)

King said, was the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the occupied Arab lands.

He said that the Arab summit had demanded the convening of an international conference as the only means for solving the conflict so that a formula could be found for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242 which clearly state the inadmissibility of occupying other countries' territory by force.

The King said that the Arab Nation calls for consultations among the five permanent members of the Security Council and the concerned parties to pave the way for the conference.

"These days the World watches an uprising in the occupied Arab lands by the Arab inhabitants against the inhuman Israeli practices and we are supporting the Palestinian people with all our might and we will never forget them and will never forget their sufferings for an instant. We believe that this uprising is another reason for concentrating the efforts for ending the problem as speedily as possible," King Hussein said.

This can be done, he said, only through the proposed international conference which has won the support and backing of the majority of nations. The King said that there was no chance this year to gain the support of a few remaining nations for the idea of the conference and therefore efforts should continue to end this problem.

"What is happening in the occupied Arab lands at present calls for doubled efforts to find a lasting and honourable solution for the Palestine problem that will be acceptable to future generations," King Hussein said.

The King said he was returning home deeply satisfied and pleased with the outcome of the visit and more proud of the Soviet Union's friendship with the Arab Order.

"This war, which is in its eighth year now, is expanding and Iran has threatened Saudi Arabia. Kuwait, Iraq and gradually the rest of the Arab Nation and the Arab Order as a whole," King Hussein said.

He said that the continuation of the war had brought danger and foreign forces to the Gulf region.

"At the summit we strove to end the war and we believe that the only means for ending it is

The first of these issues, the

## Crown Prince explains concept of NIHO

(Continued from page 1)

encies. However, the commission was not an end in itself but only a means to promote the humanitarian process. This process must go on and must spread. Defection must lead to action. In what way was ICIHI independent?

First, its members participated in their personal capacity and not as representatives of any government or organisation. Secondly, its resources were from as widely-spread sources as its members, hardly, even though the United

Nations played a certain role in encouraging its establishment, the commission was established outside the United Nations framework in order for it to be independent of the constraints of inter-governmental debates. Fourth, its objectivity stemmed from the realism of its members who were drawn from most of the world's geographical regions including the U.S. and the USSR. The Soviet Union provided strong support for the Jordanian proposal at the General Assembly. What does that signify and how do you view it?

A: I am pleased by the active

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## Council of Ministers ratifies loan accord with Kuwaiti fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Wednesday ratified a loan agreement with Kuwait under which the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development will give Jordan seven million Kuwaiti dinars to help it finance the expansion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

The loan agreement was signed by officials from the Kuwaiti fund and Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan in Amman last month. The loan will be used to complete the station's second phase, a project that entails the addition

of two thermal power-generating units, each with a capacity of 130 megawatts, and linking the station with the main distribution centre, south of Amman, with a 400-kilovolt transmission cable.

According to the agreement, the loan will carry an annual interest of six per cent and will be paid over 15 years with a five-year grace period. The project, which is being supervised and implemented by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), is expected to be completed by 1991.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan, South Korea to sign accord today

AMMAN (Petra) — A South Korean delegation, now on a visit here, will today sign an agreement with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on the exchange of expertise and information regarding computers in reorganising management affairs and running training centres and programmes. The agreement will also cover ways to help promote JEA's services to subscribers, manufacture electrical equipment and promote its research for developing power projects in the Kingdom. The delegation which groups representatives of the South Korean Electric Power Corporation is reciprocating the visit to South Korea recently made by Dr. Hisham Al Khatib, minister of energy and mineral resources.

### Soviet folk troupe begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Soviet Lazghi folk troupe arrived here Wednesday at the invitation of the Department of Culture and Arts in implementation of a Jordanian-Soviet cultural agreement. A spokesman for the Department of Culture and Arts said that the Soviet troupe will present performances at the Royal Cultural Centre today under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. He said that the troupe will present other performances later at the Al Hussein Youth City and Yarmouk University.

### Kabriti presents credentials to Evren

ANKARA (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Turkey, Saleh Al Kabriti presented his credentials to President Kenan Evren and conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and best wishes to the Turkish people. The president paid tribute to the King's efforts in unifying Arab ranks and his success in concluding a successful summit meeting in Amman achieving consensus and agreement among Arab countries. President Evren also voiced his total dismay over Israel's inhuman practices against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories and reiterated Turkey's call for an end to the Gulf conflict.

### Cold weather forecast to continue today

AMMAN (Petra) — An atmospheric depression which affected Jordan in the past two days is now moving eastward, but another depression moving into the Mediterranean Sea from the Black Sea is expected to affect the region by Friday night, director of the Department of Meteorology, Dr. Ali Abanda, announced Wednesday evening.

He said that the depression caused very cold winds to blow on Jordan and the Eastern Mediterranean regions from the polar zone bringing in heavy rains that fell on most areas of the Kingdom and light snow on very high areas at Ras Al Naqab in the southern regions.

According to Dr. Abanda, more rains will fall on Thursday and the weather will continue to be cold.

Dr. Abanda said that rains which fell on Jordan over the past two days were good and compensated for sunny days in the past month.

In the meantime, the Public Security Department (PSD) reported snow in the Ma'an region and said that the Rajev-Aras road was blocked by snow.

The PSD also reported poor visibility along roads in high mountainous areas in the south and north of Jordan due to thick fog.

He said that the depression

which is in the initial stage, "but that the process has already started."

Mr. Nakayama said his government had advised its private sector "not to seek commercial advantage in an area where others have left." He did not elaborate.

He said the government cooperated with the private sector by providing it with information relevant to the safety of commercial navigation in the Gulf. Asked whether the government would advise its private sector oil companies to seek imports from other less-troubled areas, Mr. Nakayama said "it is a matter for them to decide."

Some of these proposals are already under consideration by Tokyo as part of the \$300 million loan, but, the ambassador said, "no final decision" has yet been made on the financing of any particular project. He said intensive contacts were underway on proposed projects.

Speaking of his term in Jordan, the ambassador said he arrived in Amman with "practically no knowledge of the Kingdom or any part of the Middle East. I had my own misgivings and misconceptions about Jordan and the area. What followed," he said, "was a succession of pleasant surprises."

"It is up to Jordan to determine its priorities and make proposals on projects it wants to finance," said Mr. Nakayama who leaves Amman today after serving his country here for 4½ years. He returns to Tokyo before taking up his new post in Ecuador.

In the interview, the ambassador pointed out that Japan would not make any proposals on projects to be financed in Jordan. He said there was "no time limit for the implementation of the loan."

On December 20, 1987 the first

function was celebrated in the Auditorium of Amman Chamber of Commerce which was well-attended by Jordanian dignitaries, members of diplomatic corps and Pakistani community. The Jordanian Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat was the chief guest and the gathering was addressed by distinguished speakers like H.E. Dr. Kamel Sharif, H.E. Mr. Akram Zaitar and Mr. Raif Naim. In his speech, the ambassador paid glowing tributes to the

Kingdom.

On December 21, 1987 a

"Pakistan exhibition" was held at the Jordan University and inaugurated by its president, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali. The ambassador received Dr. Majali and accompanied him to various display items. This exhibition included display of photographs of the Quaid, handicrafts, literature on Pakistan and other items depicting Pakistani culture.

A similar exhibition was held on December 23, 1987 in Yarmouk University, Irbid and was inaugurated by president of the university, Dr. Hamdan. In the evening, an elaborate "Fancy Show" depicting Pakistani dresses was held at the Yarmouk University.

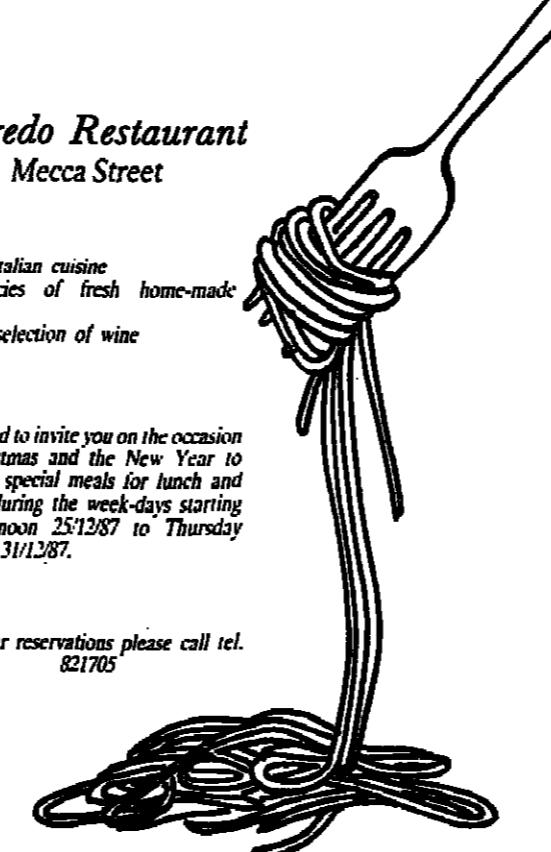
On Dec. 25, a community function will be held at the Chancery and will be attended by Pakistani farmers and workers in the Kingdom.

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## Outgoing Japanese ambassador esteems Jordan's economic and political role in Mideast

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Outgoing Japanese ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama has said the Japanese government's recent approval of a \$300 million soft loan to the Kingdom was "just one manifestation of a growing recognition in Tokyo of Jordan's pivotal role in the Middle East."

Tokyo approved the loan in October as part of a regional "assistance package" to help ensure safety for commercial navigation in the Gulf and the broader stability in the Middle East. The package, a landmark in Mr. Nakayama's career, included a \$200 million similar loan for the Sultanate of Oman.

"The government of Jordan has been very much interested in our approach to enhance the stability of the region," Mr. Nakayama said. "We are looking forward towards further political, economic and cultural cooperation."

The ambassador said the implementation of development projects in Jordan to be financed by the Japanese loan was "at the initial stage," but that the process "has already started."

Mr. Nakayama said his government had advised its private sector "not to seek commercial advantage in an area where others have left." He did not elaborate.

He said the government cooperated with the private sector by providing it with information relevant to the safety of commercial navigation in the Gulf. Asked whether the government would advise its private sector oil companies to seek imports from other less-troubled areas, Mr. Nakayama said "it is a matter for them to decide."

Some of these proposals are already under consideration by Tokyo as part of the \$300 million loan, but, the ambassador said, "no final decision" has yet been made on the financing of any particular project. He said intensive contacts were underway on proposed projects.

Speaking of his term in Jordan, the ambassador said he arrived in Amman with "practically no knowledge of the Kingdom or any part of the Middle East. I had my own misgivings and misconceptions about Jordan and the area. What followed," he said, "was a succession of pleasant surprises."

"It is up to Jordan to determine its priorities and make proposals on projects it wants to finance," said Mr. Nakayama who leaves Amman today after serving his country here for 4½ years. He returns to Tokyo before taking up his new post in Ecuador.

In the interview, the ambassador pointed out that Japan would not make any proposals on projects to be financed in Jordan. He said there was "no time limit for the implementation of the loan."

On the loan's repayment terms, Mr. Nakayama said repayment conditions were subject to the nature of the loan to be financed within the \$300 million package. "Each project would be treated separately."

The Japanese-financed projects currently under detailed negotiations include those related to power generation, road construction, irrigation and education installations and programmes.

The Japanese ambassador discussed his country's policy in the region and Tokyo's diplomatic efforts to help reach a peaceful and just end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Nakayama said Japan, which is heavily dependent on Iranian oil, considered its involvement in the Gulf "a rather sensitive issue."

He hinted that Tokyo's policy in the Gulf, which distinguished itself from the general Western stance, had often strained relations with Western states.

He underlined Tokyo's insistence to adhere to diplomatic channels in trying to deal with conflicts.

On Japan's oil imports from Iran, Mr. Nakayama said the issue was a matter to be decided by the Japanese private sector.

"The Japanese government cannot interfere in commercial activities of the private sector and their business in the region," he said. "The amount being imported from Iran has declined (since the beginning of the tanker war) for one reason or the other."

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## An occasion of sorrow and sadness

CHRISTMAS in Bethlehem and the rest of the Holy Land this year will go down in contemporary history as among the saddest and most solemn ever due to the Palestinian blood that was spilled by Israeli bullets in the last two weeks. It was no surprise that celebrations in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus Christ, and the rest of the occupied territories will be trimmed this year to the bare minimum and will not exceed strict religious observance of the normally happy occasion of the birth of Christianity. With the Christian officialdom's decision to mark this year's occasion of Christmas with reserved joy in the occupied territories, the churches of Jordan have also decided to curtail their celebration to the minimum as an expression of their solidarity with their brethren fighting and struggling against Israel's harsh and oppressive measures in the occupied territories.

In all, the mounting death toll among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the hands of the Israeli forces have transformed an otherwise joyous and inspirational occasion into a mourning event, which the whole world will mark with much sorrow and sadness. To make things even worse in the Holy Land, the Israeli minister of defence, Yitzhak Rabin, has returned from his official visit to Washington ever more defiant of the occasion of Christmas with a promise to apply an even more iron-fist policy against the inhabitants of the Holy Land. This is the Christmas gift that Israel is offering to the Christians of the world and to the very people affected by the trigger-happy Israeli forces. This is the message of "despair" and "hostility" that Israel is beaming out to the world at large on the very occasion of Christmas, the religious and joyous occasion which brought much hope and inspiration to mankind. To add insult to injury, Rabin and like-minded Israeli officials, which are behind the measures that marred and smeared the Christmas season of 1987, had the audacity to suggest to the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip that there were "peaceful ways" to get their "rights." Show us Rabin one case in your state's history where the people of Palestine had come anywhere near earning their national rights by peaceful ways. Tell us Rabin and company how Israel had wrested Palestinian territory from its rightful citizens to establish itself. Was it by peaceful means that Israel came into being or rather on ashes of the national rights of its indigenous people? After 20 years of occupation is there truly a peaceful way out of Israeli occupation and oppression? We wonder. But if there is, then it would be Israel which has to show the way. It is the recalcitrant party that refuses to budge an inch for peace.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Complementary drives

JORDANIAN moves on the one hand and diplomatic moves by Arab governments on the other clearly reflect a determination on the part of the Arab Nation to follow up on the positive outcome achieved at the Arab summit meeting in Amman last month. King Hussein's visit to the Soviet Union assumes a special importance since it represents a pan-Arab drive to present the Arab views to the superpower and explain the Amman summit's successful outcome. Likewise, Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia who visited Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo, carried out a similar mission within the Arab World, acting in the spirit of the Amman summit and trying to enhance its resolutions which call for pan-Arab solidarity in the face of hostile alliance, specially in the Palestine and Gulf fronts. Prince Hassan held talks with Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz on current Arab affairs and the results of the Amman summit. These talks come on the eve of meetings in Riyadh by the Gulf Cooperation Council members who will discuss collective defence and security matters. The meeting will find a total backing from Arab countries for measures aimed at ensuring the security of the Arab states. The coming meeting is bound to enhance the resolutions passed by the Amman summit on the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is no alternative to solidarity among Arab countries at a time when the common enemies continue their drive to occupy Arab land, and there is no substitute to pan-Arab action in the face of injustice and repression.

### Al Dustour: What is expected of Soviets

ISSUES of common interest to Jordan and the Soviet Union were on top of the subjects discussed by King Hussein and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at a three-hour meeting at the Kremlin Tuesday. These questions covered regional problems and issues of global importance. King Hussein voiced his appreciation to Mr. Gorbachev for his concluding an agreement with the U.S. on removing nuclear weapons from Europe and said the world was in need of another agreement to come through an international conference that would bring about peace and security to the Middle East, and pave the way for an end to the fighting in the Gulf in accordance with Security Council resolutions. King Hussein dwelt in length on these two issues in his address to a banquet held in his honour at the Kremlin on the first day of his visit. He said the Arab World in general looks to the Soviet Union to take serious steps for supporting the Arab Nation's drive towards peace and security. In referring to the bloody events and the upsurge of Arab resistance in the occupied Arab territories, King Hussein pointed to Israel's intransigent position and said that the events come as a natural reaction to Israel's arbitrary actions and repressive measures against the Palestinian people. In reference to the Gulf conflict, the King pointed to the dangers inherent in Iran's continued rejection of peace bids and refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 598. The King's speech at the banquet and the subsequent talks held with Mr. Gorbachev emphasise the importance of the monarch's visit to Moscow and the role the Arab Nation expects from their friend and superpower to play in contributing towards a genuine and just peace.

## Soviet president's speech at banquet in honour of His Majesty the King

Security of Mideast is closely linked to that of the Soviet Union

• Moscow will exert continuous constructive efforts for Mideast peace conference • Soviets remain committed to Resolution 598

Following is an unofficial translation of Soviet President Andrei Gromyko's address at a banquet he hosted in honour of His Majesty King Hussein on Monday, the first day of His Majesty's current visit to the Soviet Union.

Your Majesty,  
Our respected Jordanian guests,  
Comrades,

WE are deeply pleased to welcome our most esteemed guest King Hussein Ibn Talal of Jordan on an official visit to the Soviet Union. We are also glad to see here at the Kremlin Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Strong and solid relations have developed between our two countries since a long time. These relations have been based on principles of mutual respect and non-intervention in each other's internal affairs. In the view of the Soviets, Jordan is an integral part of the Arab World, the land of great and ancient traditions and the cradle of genuine civilisations. The unique and rare caves, palaces and temples which are sculptured in the rocks of the mountains of Petra, the capital of one greatest and most ancient states, are truly considered real miracles of man's magnificent architectural creations.

REALLY it is not useless to describe Jordan as "open-air museum" but the central debate in our contemporary times is not focused on the necessity of preserving civilisations' ruins but rather on the fact that the nations are demanding with their loudest voice the human life itself on earth should be safeguarded prior to anything else.

THE era we are living in is extraordinary. Just recently, the visit of the secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party, Mikhail Gorbachev, to Washington to sign the Soviet-American INF treaty, and the international reactions to the treaty have once again proved that realising the major objective of humanity of deterring the danger of nuclear war has become nearer than ever. And even those who are still resisting the elimination of nuclear weapons can no longer claim that this goal is a mirage or an attainable dream.

THESE forces are trying to exploit the situation for their own

IT has become clear to the whole world that the realisation of this objective is solely contingent on the scope of the current efforts in that direction.

IT has become clear that the continuation of the arms race is a step towards a bottomless pit and, if we use the metaphoric expressions used in your countries my friends, then we shall say that the arms race is like a caravan in the desert heading straight to the lifeless Dead Sea where it is impossible for any living soul to survive.

THE Soviet-American INF treaty represents the first step in the reverse direction i.e. towards avoiding the danger of the catastrophe and safeguarding of life on earth.

WE shall not be tired to reiterate that our Leninist policy is a policy of peace and that the U.S.S.R., together with its allies and the other countries that call for development of ties among nations, is constructing a peace landmark.

BUT this landmark cannot be strongly built if the construction was not based on solid security base. Or else this security would be unreliable and fragile.

THIS realisation has become one of the crystal-clear fundamentals of the nuclear age. Therefore I reiterated, during the 27th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, the need to reactivate collective efforts to extinguish the flames of conflict in the regions of tension and instability in the world.

THIS point, perhaps, directly concerns the Middle East in the first place, for the unresolved conflict in this area has been shedding blood for the last four decades. Moreover, year after year, new causes of conflict are again proved that realising the major objective of humanity of deterring the danger of nuclear war has become nearer than ever.

THE idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East is currently enjoying the world attention. It is a positive development that this idea is gaining ground and weight. Even

the major objective of humanity of deterring the danger of nuclear war has become nearer than ever.

And even those who are still resisting the elimination of nuclear weapons can no longer claim that this goal is a mirage or an attainable dream.

### A very significant visit

By Yuri Tionkov

*Novosti*

THERE IS no doubt that His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Moscow is an important development in the international arena. It follows the achievement of a great step towards deterring the danger of a nuclear catastrophe. This step was the signing in Washington of the Soviet-American agreement to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

King Hussein, on behalf of the Jordanian government and people, has personally congratulated the Soviet leadership on this major step which has paved the way for the elimination of a nuclear nightmare. The significance of the King's visit stems from the fact that the main focus of his talks with the Soviet leadership is on the removal of tension and the danger of war from the Middle East and the Gulf, a region whose security affects the security of the world as a whole.

President Andrei Gromyko has stressed the importance that the Soviet leadership attaches to this visit. In his speech at the Kremlin on Monday, President Gromyko underlined the importance of a decisive and a daring turn towards a collective search for a just and honourable peace in the Middle East. He reiterated that the Soviet Union was not apathetic towards the fate of the people of the Middle East, which is close to the USSR and, consequently, the prevailing military and political tension in the region cannot but affect the Soviet Union and its allies.

The attention is now focused on efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. Even those who until recently were not willing to listen to the idea are now reconsidering the proposal and possibility of convening the conference.

In a reference to the conference's task to provide solutions addressing all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including

narrow interests and benefits. As the final result, we find a chronic political and military instability, which had cost meaningless human losses, destruction of villages and towns and of the concerned economies.

ALL of this creates an atmosphere of danger and lack of confidence in the future on the part of the people of the region.

THE Middle East conflict should be solved and this is the will of this era. The violation of the legitimate rights of nations and the international law is illegal, and the nations will never accept the violations of their rights.

THIS fact is being proved by the ongoing courageous resistance the Palestinian people are putting up against the Israeli occupiers and which has also shown the futility of the "iron fist" policy adopted by Israel. The (Palestinian resistance) has also proved the need for a decisive and daring turn towards a collective search for a just and honourable peace.

THE Soviet union is far from being apathetic towards the fate of the nations in the Middle East. This region is close in proximity to our country and therefore the escalating political and military tension cannot but affect us and the security of our allies. We have always had historical, political, economic and cultural interests and concerns in the region.

WE are also aware that other countries have similar interests and concerns in the region. But that should never mean that an external force can claim the right to decide the future and fate of the area or to impose by force the basis of this future upon the people of the region.

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THESE forces are trying to exploit the situation for their own

rights.

RECALLING its relevant resolutions on the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories, occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and including its resolutions 446 (1979), 465 (1980), 497 (1981) and 592 (1986).

RECALLING also the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949.

GRAVELY concerned and alarmed by the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

RECALLING the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

TAKING into account the need to consider measures for the impartial protection of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation.

BEARING in mind the inalienable rights of all peoples recognised by the Charter of the United Nations and proclaimed by universal declaration of human rights.

CONSIDERING that the current policies and practices of Israel, the occupying power, in the occupied territories are bound to have

grave consequences for the endeavours to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

1. Strongly deplores these policies and practices of Israel, the occupying power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and in particular the opening of fire by the Israeli army, resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian citizens.

2. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

3. Calls once again upon Israel, the occupying power, to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949.

4. Decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review.

5. Stresses the urgent need to reach a just, durable and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

6. Requests the secretary general to examine the present situation in the occupied territories by all means available to him, and to submit a report no later than 20 January 1988 containing his recommendations on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

7. Decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review.

grave consequences for the endeavours to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

1. Strongly deplores these policies and practices of Israel, the occupying power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and in particular the opening of fire by the Israeli army, resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian citizens.

2. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

3. Calls once again upon Israel, the occupying power, to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949.

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# Justice and charity breed goodwill

By Reverend Mousa Adeli

sphere of personal life, in every aspect of national life, and in every field of international approach to global problems.

It is a universal desire of every human being to possess peace. But it doesn't come easily. It takes tremendous effort to attain peace and then guard it without losing it. Peace can be possessed only by "men of goodwill". We can further paraphrase it and say that peace is assured to only "nations of goodwill". Global peace will be the cumulative result of the goodwill of all nations on earth. In other words, whether sought by an individual, or a society, or a nation of diverse people, or a world of diverse nations, peace is based on the bedrock of goodwill.

Individuals need first to achieve peace before a society can enjoy peace. The individuals' goodwill towards one another makes it possible for all the members of the society to live in harmony and order; this makes possible the observance of the rules of society which are necessary for the common good of all. This also makes everyone to recognise the rights of everybody

else and respect them.

Education, religious discipline etc. would certainly help people to cultivate goodwill towards one another. Lack of goodwill tends to make people behave irrationally towards one another in a society. Lack of it tends to make one selfish and forgetful of others' rights; lack of it tends to beget envy, rancour, and evil designs, potentially disruptive to the well-being of the whole society. In some places, peace is disturbed by a few who take the laws into their own hands. They neither believe in the goodwill of others nor peace with others, but indulge themselves in evil pursuits. Stringent laws, therefore are made to restrict their destructive activities. Fortunately there are few anarchists. They are a liability all the same in a society where peace is the anchor for human development. But peace is the monopoly of the men of goodwill.

Peace among nations is also dependent on the goodwill they show one another. Lack of it tends nations to suspect the good intentions of one another. Tensions, quarrels, conflicts and wars

ensue based on issues they consider they cannot comprehend in the behaviour of one towards another. It is goodwill that should make them avoid the path of confrontation and seek peaceful solutions to outstanding problems on common principles. Differences of views are inevitable among nations but that does not mean that they should lead to undermining the goodwill existing between them. On the contrary, differences should help reinforce it, just as we see a marvellous unity in the diversity of nature. In this regard, it was heartening to witness the Arab leaders' summit in Amman last month. A fund of goodwill brought them all under a summit umbrella that gave a boost to the peace process in the Middle East. They have tangibly expressed their goodwill to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The other party in the conflict, Israel, should reciprocate it with an adequate show of goodwill. Israel will have peace for all the time to come provided Israel demonstrates goodwill.

Goodwill on both sides will eventually lead to the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

How would we show goodwill and reap its fruit of peace. First of all we must realise that in the family of humans we are all equals, having equal rights. Justice demands that no-one should try to infringe upon the legitimate rights of others. What is nowadays very much lacking is the readiness to accord respect to the rights of others. Even positively in some places those rights are being trampled under foot. The right to live and organise a decent life, the right to have the freedom of speech, the right to practise one's religion, the right to basic amenities of life etc. are not always enjoyed by all everywhere. Particularly without religious liberty one can hardly expect harmony and peace among people of diverse persuasions and beliefs. It is very significant to mention that the meeting between Muslims and Christians in Amman during the Third Muslim-Christian Dialogue last month ensured and strengthened the goodwill of one community to the other.

Secondly, we see socio-economic disparities in people's life. Some are rich; others are poor; still others are beggars and dispossessed. There are so many suffering and dying of hunger. Yet there are those lavishly living on delicacies and would not even part with the crumbs that fall from their tables to feed a hungry person. There is need to cultivate a greater awareness among people to support the poor and needy and even to share their means with them.

Pope John Paul said to the general assembly of Caritas Internationalis in May: "To build peace we must build communities of justice and charity". In fact this was the theme of the assembly which the Pope wholeheartedly commended. It is true nobody can remain insensitive to the urgent need for peace everywhere. But justice and charity are the *sine qua non* for displaying our goodwill which ultimately will bloom into universal and authentic peace for which everyone is hankering for. Christmas is a time to reassess our share in realising that supreme and noble goal.

## Randa Habib's corner

### Quality control

IN LIGHT of the government policy of encouraging local industry we have witnessed the appearance of tens of small enterprises in Jordan. From various artificial juices, to potato chips, candies, soaps, tissues, and other commodities, the market is full of Jordanian-made goods.

However, the quality is not always what one expects. Is it because of too much local competition that so many factories are introducing gifts and offering low prices as incentives to market their goods. This competition in a relatively small market, is giving a hard time to the small enterprises.

To survive market competition and make profit, most industrial concerns cut down the prices of their products, but only at the expense of quality.

To combat this a committee for consumer quality control should be established. Such a body would closely monitor all the goods in the market and make sure that they are safe for consumers and meet the required standards. Some smaller enterprises might get in difficulty, as they might not be able to cope with a higher standard and with less profit. In that case those small enterprises should merge and become one corporation with a joint capital; stronger in the market and able to face bigger competitors.

The experience of the merger of small insurance companies, for example, proved to be a success. The result may be profitable for both the entrepreneurs and the consumers.

### Kuwaiti film director stays with Arab roots

By Philip Shehadi  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Renowned Kuwaiti film director Khaled Siddik is sometimes asked why he has not made a film about the modern Gulf region he lives in, with its steel and glass towers, freeways and oil wells.

"I've always sought out the real roots of the Arabs in their traditional environments, whether Kuwait, Sudan or the silk route days," he says, referring to his three feature films.

Siddik, 42, has set poignant love stories in the oases of Sudan and in the pearling days before Kuwait's oil boom.

In his latest movie, he turns the clock back 600 years to the height of Arab empire when European adventurers, Arab traders and Indian beauties mingled on Marco Polo's silk route to China.

Siddik is a rarity in the Gulf Arab states, where a handful of film makers produce mostly state-sponsored documentaries and TV serials.

He has overcome parental rebuke, religious opposition and financial risk to achieve recognition at home and abroad as a leading Arab writer, director and producer of full-length feature films.

Siddik recalled that when his first film, *Bas ya Bahr* (The Cruel Sea), came out in 1972, some Kuwaiti parliamentarians called for the negatives to be burned.

The award-winning film is now regarded as a classic, the tragic story of a young Kuwaiti who dies

on a pearling trip trying to earn the bride price for the girl he loves.

Siddik's passion for the screen started early while he was in school in India, the Third World's leading film maker.

When he returned to Kuwait aged 16, his religious father deemed film-making un-Islamic and insisted he go into the family business.

"I told him if I joined the family firm it would go bust in a fortnight," Siddik remembers.

"But my father resisted (Siddik's film-making) until his last moments."

He learned the rudiments of cinematic technique in the early days of Kuwaiti television and studied in Britain, Italy and the United States.

"The Cruel Sea" is about the struggle of people with nature before the discovery of oil," Siddik says. "I thought it was important for the west and a lot of Arab countries to know what Kuwait was like before oil."

Kuwait's mud huts and traditional wedding dances and the long months at sea vanished 50 years ago, but are vividly shown in Siddik's film.

The success of "The Cruel Sea", which won nine international awards, encouraged Siddik in 1975 to set up his own studio in Kuwait, the first private studio in the Gulf.

His next film was adapted from Sudanese writer Al Tayeb Saleh's novel, *Utr Az-Zain* (The Wedding of Zain).

## And the child is born a million times

By Najwa Najjar

IT ALL began in a little town called Nazareth when three boys heard about the miraculous birth of a child. Rumour had it that the child was born under strange circumstances. He had been in the womb for anywhere between ten and 20 years. Until the mother gave birth, she had thought that the child was additional weight she had put on over the years.

The mother did not see her child after he was born, but her dying words were that the "king of kings" had taken birth.

All this talk greatly disturbed King David who had called himself the "king of kings". A scrappy little man who lived in a huge plastic bubble furnished with all the luxuries of the West, the king had built a reputation larger than himself.

He assigned his advisors to bring him hourly updates on the child. But the news on the child's sensational actions infuriated King David. The proverbial straw that really broke the camel's back came when one of his advisors said the child appeared to be truly "the king of kings."

The veins in King David's neck swelled and his eyeballs nearly fell from their socket. Before the advisors could scamper out of the room, King David bellowed that this child must be brought to him, dead or alive, by the end of the day.

The day was Christmas eve, the same day the three boys from Nazareth decided to find out how true the story of the child was.

Christmas vacation gave them ten days of school holidays, so they had enough time to go to Jabillya camp, where the child was last reported seen.



happy to hear the child was continuing his exploits.

The news said: "Unrest has been reported in Balata camp near Nablus. Ten youngsters armed with stones have been shot by soldiers. The soldiers were unable to locate the child in Nablus."

Everyone the child was reported in different places — Jala zone camp, Khan Younis, Rafah, Hebron, Ramallah, Askar, Qalqilya, Jerusalem — but the boys somehow had a feeling they could meet the child when they reached Gaza.

A few kilometres from Tel Aviv the bus passed hundreds of people carrying coffins and chanting slogans protesting the deaths of their brethren.

A sad smile replaced the sullen look in the boys' eyes. It stayed until they reached Tel Aviv and boarded the Tel Aviv-Gaza bus, which was full of Arabs. Settling comfortably into their seats, the boys shot ears up as they heard the child mentioned again.

"They say the child is beautiful with huge doves eyes," said an elderly woman.

"I've heard that the child is not only beautiful, but also intelligent... he has a photographic memory and understands concepts without much explanation," added another.

"There's talk that no bullet can kill him," was the excited comment of a youth.

"The minute they have him cornered, he flies to another place," added his companion.

"He even gives the poor their daily bread," shouted a voice from the front rows.

"I wonder if he was born in Jabilly camp. There are reports that the child was seen at Deir Al Balah and Dheisheh camps, in Jerusalem and even in the Galilee," said a breathless woman who was just in time to catch the bus.

"I bet he's as dark as night," asserted an old bedouin.

"He may be blond," countered another voice.

At the end of the one-hour trip, the three boys got off at the Jabilly stop. Bidding the passengers farewell and receiving their blessings in return, they set off towards the camp. As they neared the rundown dwellings with glassless windows and rotting doors, they stood aside in silence to make way for a funeral procession. Not a sound could be heard from the young and old that walked past. Young children looked at the boys with their adult eyes while the young men carrying bodies wrapped in red, green, white and black cloth on their shoulders stared right through them with tears glistening in their eyes.

The three boys decided to follow the procession. Soon they found themselves in front of Shifa Hospital. But they were taken aback to see King David himself, escorted by Goliath carrying a long wooden club and a rifle.

The boys instinctively knew what to do. Joining the protesters they formed a human barricade. As Goliath drew closer, Fadi took the slingshot from his backpack and a rock from the ground. When Goliath threw a tear-gas grenade, Rajai passed heads of onions around.

Nasser lit firebombs and tyres with the matches.

In the midst of the columns of black smoke and tear-gas, a kneeling Goliath and a screaming King David who had somehow lost his crown, Fadi, Rajai, and Nasser knew that a new child was indeed born, and they had just seen him.

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## NBA BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

## Houston downs Atlanta

'It didn't look too temporary'

NEW YORK (AP) — The Houston Rockets' no. 1 reason for trading Ralph Sampson was to strengthen a chronically weak backcourt.

On Tuesday night, sleepy Floyd paid the First Dividend on that trade.

Floyd scored 27 points and fellow guard Allen Leavell added 26, leading the Rockets to a 122-103 victory over Atlanta; snapping a four-game losing streak.

The Hawks, who got 20 points from Dominique Wilkins, never led in the game and the loss ended a five-game winning streak.

Leavell, who hit 11 of 14 shots, expected to be replaced in the starting lineup by Floyd, who was traded to Houston along with Joe Barry Carroll for Sampson and Steve Harris.

Instead, Fitch used them both. "The Floyd-Leavell combo is what they made of it," Fitch said. "It didn't look too temporary tonight."

Floyd was nine of 16 from the field and 8-for-8 at the free throw line, giving the guard combo a 67 per cent average from the field.

In other NBA games, it was Boston 118, Philadelphia 115; Cleveland 106, Washington 102; Dallas 111, Chicago 100; Milwaukee 122, New York 105; Denver 119, Phoenix 104; Sacramento 120, San Antonio 96; and Portland 136, Golden State 91.

Akeem Olajuwon scored 14 points for the Rockets and shared rebound honours with Rodney McRae with 13 each.

But it was Floyd and Leavell who stole the spotlight.

"You're not accustomed to seeing their guards play like that," Wilkins said. "They were really performing and it carried over to their big men."

After using 14-3 and 10-0 second-quarter spurts for a 62-48 halftime lead, the Rockets scored the first 10 points of the third quarter and overcame a 15-2 surge by Atlanta to hold a 95-76 advantage going into the final period.

Mavericks 111, Bulls 100

Mark Aguirre scored 32 points for Dallas, but ironically none of them came in the fourth quarter when the Mavericks pulled away.

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SCHOOL

Due to an unexpected vacancy, applications are invited for the post of Senior School Biology teacher to teach in English to IGCSE and International Baccalaureate, with some General Science in lower grades of Senior School. The appointment is effective from Jan. 16, 1988 or as soon after as possible.

Application forms are available from the school (telephone 845572) from 28-30 December 1987 and should be returned by Jan. 3, 1988.

AMMAN BACCALAUREATE  
SCHOOL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the following posts, which may be vacant in September 1988.

## Senior School (grades 7-12)

English: General language teaching throughout Senior School, including IGCSE and IB.

English: Literature specialist for IGCSE and IB.

Biology: IGCSE and IB with some general science in lower grades of Senior School. Most teaching in English.

Mathematics: IGCSE and IB, with some teaching in lower grades of Senior School. Ability to teach Computing, as part of IB Maths with Computing, an advantage. Most teaching in English.

Craft, Design and Technology (may be a responsibility post): responsible for CDT throughout Senior School, including IGCSE courses; hence at least some teaching in English

## Junior School (grades 1-6)

Primary qualified English class teacher for grades 1 and 2, teaching English, Art and PE.

Primary qualified teacher in English for grades 5 and 6, teaching English, Maths and some Art and Craft.

Applicants for the two Senior School English posts and the two Junior School posts should be native speakers of English or of native-speaker quality.

Application forms are available from the School (tel. 845572) and should be returned by Thursday 14 January 1988. Please note the School will be closed on 26, 27/12/87 and from 31/12/87 to 2/1/88 and on 7/1/88.



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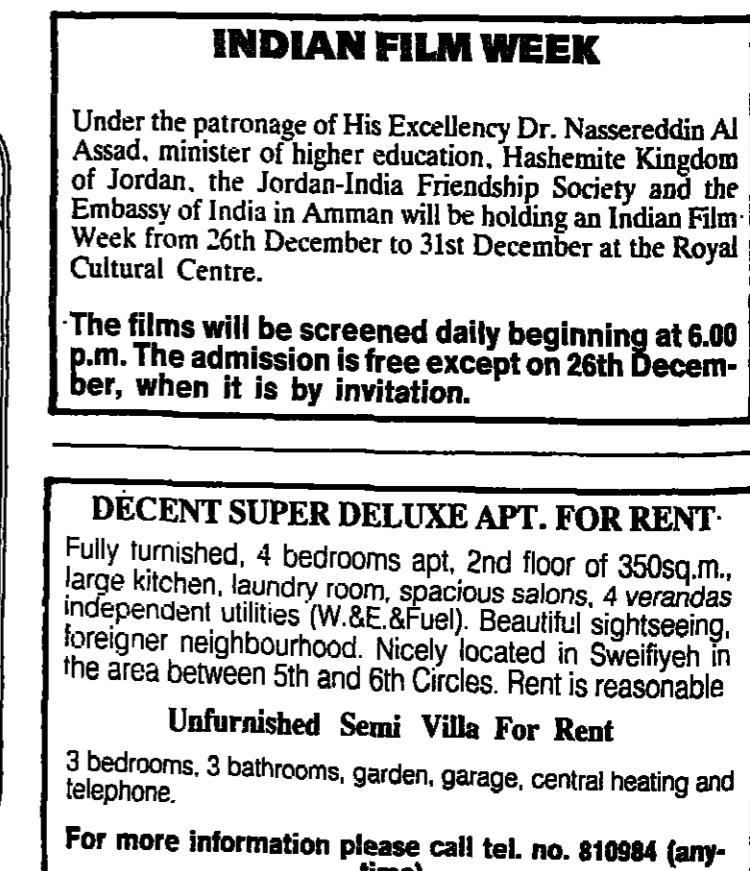


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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Arrest warrant issued for soccer boss

BOGOTA (R) — A Colombian magistrate issued an arrest warrant on Tuesday against the president of French First Division soccer club Brest who sneaked out of the country last week, Colombia's press agency Colprensa said. Investigating Magistrate Elizabeth Amaya, from Cali, issued the warrant after Brest President Francois Yvinec jumped bail and fled Colombia aboard a small plane after seven weeks of investigation about alleged fraud in a transfer contract. Yvinec arrived in France last Saturday, together with player Roberto Cabanas from the club America of Cali, and denounced to journalists what he called a "parody of justice" in Colombia. The arrest warrant means that Yvinec is subject to immediate arrest if he sets foot on Colombian soil. It was not immediately clear whether Colombian authorities would issue an international arrest warrant and seek Interpol's aid to have Yvinec arrested in France.

## Sabatini voted numero uno

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Teenage tennis star Gabriela Sabatini was declared Argentina's sports personality of the year in a ceremony in Buenos Aires on Monday night. The 17-year-old Sabatini, ranked sixth in the world, was awarded the Olympia de Oro gold trophy. Last month, Sabatini scored her second upset victory of the year over Martina Navratilova before failing to win number one Steffi Graf of West Germany in the final of the season-ending championship in New York. She then successfully defended her title in the Argentine Open. The award, decided by a vote of the Buenos Aires Sports Journalists' Association, went last year to soccer superstar Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the World Cup final over West Germany in Mexico.

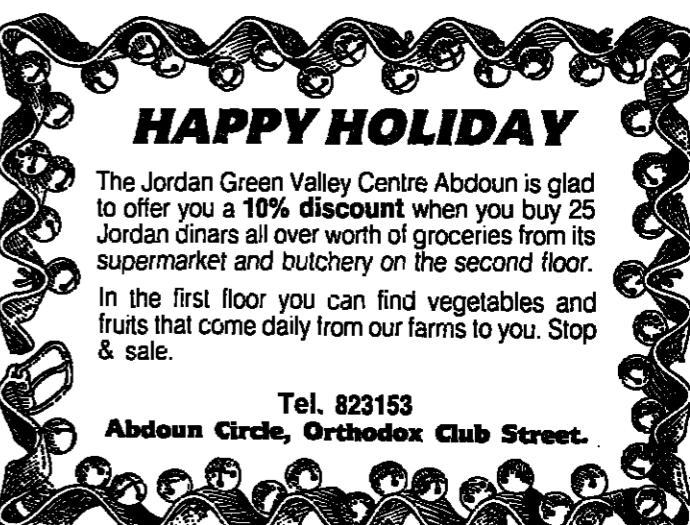
## Athletes warned against using drugs

LONDON (AP) — Britain's top sports authorities called Wednesday for the "strongest possible action" to stop athletes from using anabolic steroids intended for animals. The move by the sports council followed reports that increasing numbers of athletes were using animal drugs because they work quicker than human steroids. Health officials warned that injecting animal drugs could lead to "unknown damage" to humans. Investigators are probing the illegal importation of animal drugs into Britain and believe that Ireland was the main source, with a possible link to the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA). "The strongest possible action needs to be taken to stop this obscene abuse of peoples' bodies by drugs which are even banned for use by animals under EEC legislation," John Wheatley, director general of the Sports Council, said. "The moves by ministers and MPs to be supported."

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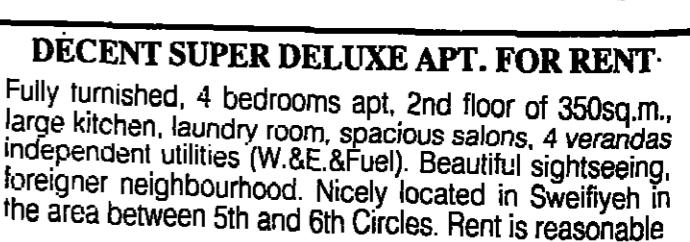
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## INDIAN FILM WEEK

Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Nasseruddin Al Assad, minister of higher education, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Jordan-India Friendship Society and the Embassy of India in Amman will be holding an Indian Film Week from 26th December to 31st December at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The films will be screened daily beginning at 6:00 p.m. The admission is free except on 26th December, when it is by invitation.



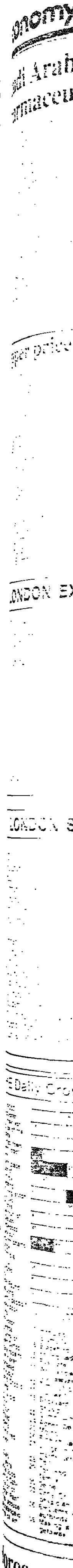
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## Economy

## Saudi Arabia to build pharmaceuticals factory

RIYADH (R) — A Saudi Arabian firm signed a contract on Tuesday to build one of the largest pharmaceutical plants in the Middle East, designed to meet 40 per cent of Saudi demand.

The Saudi Company for Pharmaceuticals Industries signed a 197 million riyal (\$55 million) contract with a West German-Saudi joint venture, Hochtief and Tamimi and Fouad, to build the plant in the Qassim region north of Riyadh, a statement said.

Company chairman, Sheikh Saleh Al Umair, told reporters the plant would produce 90 different types of drugs in capsule, tablet, ointment and liquid form. Construction will take 20 months.

The company is 60 per cent owned by the Saudi public through some 70,000 shareholders, 25 per cent by the Arab Company for Drug Industries, a pan-Arab group, six per cent by founders and nine per cent by the National Industries Corporation.

Future plans include plants to make medical equipment, X-Ray film and veterinary medicines.

The pharmaceuticals project will be financed from capital of 300 million riyals (\$80 million).

Sheikh Umair said, Saudi Arabia now produces only liquid medi-

## Dutch flower exports soar

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch flower exports in 1987 hit record levels but a sharply lower dollar and falling oil prices depressed sales to the United States and the Middle East, an industry official said on Tuesday.

Flower sales from the Netherlands, the world's biggest exporter, would total more than four billion guilders (\$2.2 billion) for the first time in 1987, Mr. Henk Rijken of the Dutch flower wholesale organisation said.

But oil markets still lack confidence in the will of Gulf producers to impose quota discipline to defend the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) \$18 a barrel benchmark.

"Gulf countries have a long way to go before the market develops confidence in them as far as output discipline goes," one industry executive said.

"Everybody expects them to sell at spot market levels," he added, referring to prices not controlled by OPEC where crude oil is now trading up to \$3 per barrel cheaper.

"We had a lot of tulips on offer in spring and the dollar hit usually strong demand for tulips in the U.S., so prices went down here," he said. But as Christmas approached, prices rose as usual.

Flower sales to Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain fell by 20 to 40 per cent this year because falling oil prices hurt demand there, he said. More than 40 per cent of Dutch flower exports went to West Germany. Other leading markets were Britain, Italy and France.

## Gulf oil states cut output

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf oil states have started cutting production to comply with OPEC quotas but they face intense pressure to offer discounts in the face of falling world prices, industry sources said.

"The four U.S. companies told the Saudis they are not running a charity and they would not buy oil at official prices if the market price does not recover," the executive said.

The GCC, which groups OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as non-members Bahrain and Oman, is expected to devote part of its meeting to the problems posed by weak prices.

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The UAE's total OPEC quota is \$48.00 so even a cut by Abu Dhabi would leave the state above its limit when crude from the other major emirate producer Dubai is taken into account.

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MEES said Iraq, left out of OPEC's quota system after it decided not to abide by its allocation of 1.54 million b/d, is also considering a cut in its 2.83 million output.

Now pressure to grant discounts appears to be increasing.

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OPEC's biggest producer Saudi Arabia, which worked out the current quota deal with Iran a year ago, has stuck to its limit of 4.343 million b/d but also under pressure from buyers.

The four U.S. oil companies that make up Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), which

operates the kingdom's oil fields and buys around 1.3 million b/d of its oil, are now asking for a discount, a senior oil executive said.

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## G-7 calls for steady dollar but markets respond slowly

LONDON (R) — Leading industrial countries have made a long-awaited joint call for a steadier dollar, but currency and share dealers said on Wednesday it may have come too late and offered too little to have much impact.

The dollar firmed, gold was steady and shares were mixed. London stocks edged higher while Tokyo, the world's biggest market, slipped back slightly.

Dealers had hoped the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — would act to buoy financial markets still jittery after the global stock markets crash in mid-October and after seeing the dollar hit its historic low last week.

"A further decline of the dollar, or a rise in the dollar to an extent that becomes destabilising to the adjustment process, could be counterproductive by damaging growth prospects in the world economy," the G-7 said in a joint statement on Tuesday.

In an annex to the statement spelling out what G-7 nations would do, finance ministers pledged only to steer steady courses. The lack of new policies disappointed dealers.

"Of course, the G-7 officials do not want currency instability. But they still have to take action to bring about their aims," said Mr. Joachim Zimmermann, chief dealer at Berliner Bank. "The market will certainly try to test just how serious the G-7 officials are about currency stability in the new year."

In early trading on Wednesday, the dollar rose just over 1.5 pence and two-thirds of a yen to touch highs of 1.6445 Deutsche marks and 127.15 yen, it then edged back to trade below 1.64 marks and 127 yen. Gold was fixed in London on Wednesday morning at \$483.25 an ounce, the same as Tuesday's close.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson and West Germany's finance and economics ministers, Mr. Gerhard Stoltenberg and Mr. Martin Bangemann, said in separate remarks on Wednesday morning that the dollar is at present under-valued.

Mr. Lawson added in a British

radio interview: "International cooperation is very much alive and well. Whether or not (the dollar) will fall further or not I don't know. I think that there is a common will, and I think that will include the United States, to try and (ensure) that it doesn't."

In Tokyo, Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said G-7 would try hard to stop the dollar sliding further. "We could expect greater (central bank) market intervention," he added.

But, said Mr. Tsunehiro Nakayama, senior manager at the Industrial Bank of Japan: "There's still a lack of concrete expression by the U.S. of support for the dollar."

"Under free market conditions, the dollar price is ultimately determined by supply and demand. G-7 statements can only have a temporary effect as long as the supply of dollars exceeds demand," said Mr. Bob Bauer, senior dealer at Commerzbank A.G. in Frankfurt. He thinks the dollar could fall to 1.60 marks.

That sort of fear, said stockbrokers in Europe and Japan, kept a lid on share prices.

A weak dollar cuts exports sales of European and Asian firms by pricing their goods off the U.S. and giving their American competitors an edge elsewhere.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225-share index slipped 47.17 points to 22,693.65. London edged higher, with the benchmark FTSE 100-share index up 13.1 points to a morning high of 1,760.5, before easing slightly.

Frankfurt's 30-share Boersen-Zeitung index opened 0.19 points lower at 281.76 and Paris shares fell.

"A G-7 declaration was all we wanted during the stormy days of October and November. We were disappointed when it failed to come. Now it's here too late and we don't care very much," said a Paris share dealer.

Shares were steady in Amsterdam, where the CBS All Share

index rose just 0.3 points to 66.4, Zurich and Sweden, Milan's MIB share index rose 0.7 per cent.

"I don't think this is an accord. It's just a Christmas message. You plea for peace and love at Christmas but the violence is resumed after Boxing Day. It's a pity, but this is just another one of those," said Mr. Leo Kranenburg, an economist at Nederlandse Credietbank, in Amsterdam.

"When you come out with communiques like this, you need to talk about concrete measures and not just make statements of intent," said Mr. Daniel Witschi, an economist at Swiss Bank Corp.

In the annex to the G-7 statement, Japan promised it "will steadfastly continue implementing the six-trillion-yen-plus (\$47 billion) package decided on last May."

West Germany said its monetary growth would "continue to maintain appropriate conditions for sustained non-inflationary economic growth."

The United States noted that it would cut its budget deficit by \$76 billion over two years — President Reagan signed budget-cutting bills to that effect into law on Tuesday. The United States also said it would resist protectionist pressure.

It was all similar to February's Louvre accord, dealers said. In that pact, Japan and West Germany agreed to boost their economies and the U.S. to cut its twin budget and trade deficits — the policies the G-7 statement says they will continue.

But many dealers were not impressed with their efforts, especially after the U.S. trade deficit for October, announced earlier this month, hit a record \$17.63 billion.

This autumn, a series of bad U.S. trade figures pushed the dollar far below its Louvre accord floors of about 1.75 to 1.80 Deutsche marks and 135 to 140 yen. Share prices crashed.

The dollar tumbled to record lows after the record October figure was reported, on Dec. 10. If eventually fell as low as 1.6140 marks and 125.42 yen on Dec. 18.

## Copper price hits new high

LONDON (R) — Copper fetched a record price on Wednesday as traders and merchants sought supplies to cover themselves against likely shortages early in 1988.

The cash price on the London Metal Exchange (LME), on which most long-term supply contracts are based, reached £1,700 (\$3,000) a tonne on Wednesday night, nearly double the price at the start of 1987.

Speculative and trade demand is boosting the market and this will continue until supply and demand return to balance, Mr. Daniel Schultz, senior economist at Drexel, Burnham and Lambert

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.8225/35												
One U.S. dollar	1.3055/65	1.6375/85	1.8420/35	1.3295/3305	34.22/27	5.5300/50	1202/1204	126.70/85	5.9450/9500	6.3950/4000	6.3000/50	482.30/482.80	
One ounce of gold													

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares resumed their upward move in very thin trading after a short-lived decline on disappointing U.K. balance of trade data for November, dealers said.

A firmer dollar and an early gain of over 20 points on Wall Street helped buoy the market but traders were at pains to point out that volume was low ahead of the Christmas holiday period and that little could be read into Wednesday's rise.

Stocks had also been hurt this morning by news that the U.K. government would use its "golden share" to stop B.P. from controlling the board of British. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index stood just below its day's high, 19 points higher at 1,766.4.

The U.K. treasury said that if a formal offer is made for British or if anyone control of over 50 per cent of its shares then the special share still allows the government to outvote all other shareholders on any resolution.

British shares fell back from a high of 440p after the treasury statement to stand 15p higher at 427, but were still second on the most active list with over 19 million changing hands.

## U.S. wheat sales to Tunis angers France

PARIS (R) — France reacted angrily to news the United States sold 225,000 tonnes of wheat to Tunisia under a special programme aimed at boosting U.S. farm exports.

"This is not normal. France offered prices between \$8 and \$10 lower than the U.S.," a senior French finance ministry official told Reuters.

France and the United States have in recent years often clashed over exports to Morocco, Algeria and Egypt as U.S. wheat producers have sought to carve out new Third World markets.

Paris had a virtual monopoly on grain sales to Tunisia, a former colony, until about three years ago when the United States launched a campaign to export grain to North Africa and the Mediterranean.

Tunisia's wheat imports are now about evenly split between France and the United States.

"Cereals account for two thirds of France's food exports to Tunisia. They are a very sensitive issue in our bilateral trade," said a ministry official, who declined to be identified.

Austrian exports to the region amounted to \$146.82 million against imports of \$40.40 million.

Saudi Arabia was the largest market for Austrian goods totalling \$86.5 million, followed by Kuwait (\$27 million) and the United Arab Emirates (\$23 million).

The Austrian Federal Economics Chamber will stage exhibitions in five GCC states during the first half of 1988 as part of a drive to promote trade.

According to Dr. Peter Singer of the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the exhibitions will take place as follows: Saudi Arabia (February 1988): Industrial goods, the United Arab Emirates (March): Industrial and agricultural machinery, medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, Oman (March): Textiles and clothing, Kuwait (April): Industrial goods and construction materials, and Bahrain (April): Chemicals and oil industry supplies.

Austrian companies have installed water treatment plants in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Talks are in progress with Bahrain on the sale of a steam-type electricity plant.

The 2,091-kilometre network

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul Mayor Bedrettin Dalan signed a \$452 million contract with a French company on Wednesday for construction of a network of pipes to distribute Soviet natural gas in Turkey's commercial capital.

Mr. Dalan said France's Societe Auxiliare d'Enterprises (SAE) won the project in association with Turkey's Alarako due to strong French government backing for the project.

The 2,091-kilometre network

will supply 450,000 Istanbul homes and businesses within three years, using Soviet natural gas from a pipeline that opened in June.

# Gunmen kill Sri Lankan ruling party chairman

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sinhalese extremists shot and killed the chairman of President Junius Jayewardene's United National Party (UNP) and three other people Wednesday, authorities said.

The two assassins ambushed the victims' car with a machine gun at an intersection and escaped on a stolen bicycle, army Col. Vijaya Wimalaratna said.

The killings came three days after Mr. Jayewardene vowed to wipe out Sinhalese extremists who have been assassinating his supporters.

United National Party Chairman Harsha Abeywardene, his driver, a bodyguard and another aide were killed when at least 21 bullets were fired at their Korean-made car, a police detective said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government has blamed the People's Liberation Front (PLF), composed of ultra-nationalist Sinhalese, for the deaths of about 150 policemen, government officials and United National Party members in the past five months.

Col. Wimalaratna, military coordinating officer in Colombo, said the two attackers pedaled up

to a bicycle repair shop near the intersection and asked to have a new tube put in the bike's front tire.

While they waited for the repair job, they stood at a nearby intersection with a Chinese-made TS6 submachinegun concealed inside eight wooden planks tied together with string, the colonel said.

A police officer quoted witnesses as saying that while the two men were waiting, two other men rode by on a motorcycle and apparently told the assassins that Mr. Abeywardene's car was approaching.

When Mr. Abeywardene's car approached the intersection and had to slow down for heavy mid-morning traffic, the assassins pulled out the machinegun and opened fire.

The car's rear window and side windows were shattered, and there were bullet holes in the front windshield. The inside of the car was covered in blood.

## 2 killed, 77 hurt in Brazil train collision

NOVA IGUACU, Brazil (AP) — A commuter train carrying workers from Rio de Janeiro to slum suburbs collided head-on Tuesday night with an empty train, killing two people and injuring 77, authorities said.

Fifteen of the injured were in critical condition after the rush-hour collision about 64 kilometres north of downtown Rio, a railroad spokesman said.

"Both trains were on the same track, as the southbound line was being repaired," railroad spokesman Helio Barros said. "There must have been a signal failure, because both trains advanced at the same time."

The passenger train carrying some 1,600 commuters smashed into the empty eight-car commu-

ter vehicle at a speed of 60 kph (37 mph), Mr. Barros said.

The first two cars of both trains were completely destroyed, forming an indistinguishable mangled wreckage.

The accident occurred about 6:30 p.m. (2130 GMT) in a remote area in the slum suburb of Nova Iguaçu.

"It was terrifying," said passenger Joao Vargas. "I heard a horrible screech then the next thing I knew was thrown against the walls of the tilted train. I closed my eyes and prayed. When I opened them people were screaming, breaking windows and crying."

According to police at the scene, the two dead, an elderly man and woman, were cut from the remains of the first commuter train carriages.

Rescue crews spent two hours removing bleeding passengers from the twisted metal of the train and tracks, using heavy metal cutters and electric saws.

"I close and open my eyes and could not believe it. People were

## Zimbabwe unity agreement opens way for 1-party rule

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe moved closer to the creation of a one-party Marxist-Leninist state when its two major political parties signed a unity accord.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, leader of the ruling ZANU-PF Party (Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front), and President of ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union), Joshua Nkomo, sealed the pact after two years of negotiations marked by deep-rooted mutual suspicion.

Progress in the talks, which

began in October, 1985, had been impeded by ZANU-PF accusations that ZAPU was behind a rebel insurgency in the south western province of Matabeleland, where Mr. Nkomo draws his main support from the minority Ndebele tribe. ZAPU said the charges were groundless.

Under Tuesday's agreement, the two parties have agreed to commit themselves to establishing a one-party socialist state. Mr. Mugabe's declared goal since assuming power on independence in 1980.

## Ershad calls for peace as Bangladesh strike continues

Ershad on Nov. 10. Police said that about 50 people were arrested after at least 150 small bombs packed with metal fragments exploded in different parts of the country.

Trains, river ferries and airlines trimmed schedules. Most shops and offices were shuttered, but hundreds of rickshaw drivers defied the strike call.

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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#### THE MAGIC NUMBER

Both vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ A ♦ 4  
♦ A ♦ Q 10 9 5  
♦ 9  
♦ A ♦ 8 3 2

**WEST**  
♦ 6 3  
♦ K ♦ J 9 2  
♦ K ♦ J 7 4  
♦ K 10 6 5  
♦ A ♦ J 7 2  
♦ 4 ♦ 9 4

**EAST**  
♦ 10 8 7 5  
♦ 7 3  
♦ Q ♦ 8 4 3  
♦ Q ♦ 6 5 5

**SOUTH**  
♦ 10 8 7 5  
♦ 7 3  
♦ Q ♦ 8 4 3  
♦ Q ♦ 6 5 5

The bidding:

North East South West  
1 ♦ 1 ♦ Pass 1 NT  
Pass Pass 2 ♦ Pass  
Pass 2 ♦ Pass Pass  
3 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

In duplicate, much of the strategy of defensive play centers around scoring 200 points. That is known as the "magic number" because it scores more than any other score the defenders might have collected had they not elected to defend.

Overcalls on four-card suits are not usually recommended, but on this hand from the recent Fall

## Soviets may have own version of SDI

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — The Soviet Union may have harnessed an exotic and powerful explosive process for its own version of a "Star Wars" missile-defence system, an intelligence source familiar with Soviet military systems said.

The People's Liberation Front has vowed to kill anyone who supports the July 29 peace pact Mr. Jayewardene signed with India. The accord was designed to end a 4-year-old guerrilla war by Tamil rebels fighting for a separate nation for their ethnic minority.

Many Sinhalese have accused Mr. Jayewardene, himself a Sinhalese, of making too many concessions to the Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

On Sunday, Mr. Jayewardene said members of the front must be killed to end their wave of terror.

"Can we allow terrorists to kill political supporters and officials to this government? We cannot do that. We will have to kill these terrorists," the president told members of his United National Party at a meeting in Hambantota, a southern coast city in the Sinhalese heartland.

The United States also has been experimenting to see if FAEs can be used to counter incoming missiles and to discriminate between dummy and nuclear warheads, said a scientist working on the American programme.

Intelligence officers told experts on the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or Star Wars, earlier this month that the Soviet Union experimented with FAEs in space from April 1985 until about three months ago, the intelligence source said. The newspaper said it was not certain when U.S. intelligence discovered the Soviet FAE tests.

During a Dec. 3 meeting at Patrick Air Force Base near Cape Canaveral, the intelligence officers said the Soviet FAE defence is designed to intercept U.S. rockets before they deploy their nuclear warheads, the source told the newspaper.

Such a system would be the first comprehensive defence in the world against intercontinental ballistic nuclear missiles, the newspaper said.

Just before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visited Washington earlier this month, he disclosed that the Soviets have been working on their own Star War missile defence and urged President Ronald Reagan to either drop his SDI programme or face a new arms race.

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## Sihanouk reportedly to hold 2nd meeting with Hun Sen

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A brief Vietnam News Agency report seen in Bangkok on Wednesday quoted unspecified "reports from Paris" as saying Sihanouk, in a message released Sunday, "affirmed that he will receive comrade Hun Sen as from Jan. 27, 1988, at the Castle Hindri 4 at Saint-Germain-en-Laye (France)."

Sihanouk heads a three-party guerrilla coalition battling Vietnamese troops and the government it installed in Phnom Penh after invading Kampuchea nine years ago this month and ousting the Khmer Rouge.

The meeting would put the talks back on track after Sihanouk temporarily canceled them because his resistance partners were not participating. He changed his mind, and Mr. Hun Sen proposed a second round of talks on Jan. 27.

## Gelli to serve 2 months in Geneva jail before extradition

GENEVA (R) — Italian financier Licio Gelli is to serve two months in a Geneva jail before being extradited to Italy, where he is accused of involvement in crimes including a railway bombing which killed 85 people.

A Geneva criminal court on Tuesday cleared the way for extradition on the condition that Gelli serves a two-month suspended sentence, handed down in 1983, for entering Switzerland in 1983 — shortly after his escape.

He is to spend two months in Geneva's Champ-Dollon jail before he is extradited to Italy. Switzerland's highest court, the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne, agreed to the principle of extradition in 1983 — shortly after his escape.

The three-judge court gave him a 16-month suspended prison term for bribing a Geneva prison guard to help him escape in August, 1983. It also banned him from Switzerland for 10 years.

He pleaded guilty to the bribery charge, which can carry a

sentence of three days to three years.

The fugitive 68-year-old head of Italy's secret P-2 Masonic Lodge turned himself in to Geneva authorities in September, 1987, after four years on the run.

He is to spend two months in Geneva's Champ-Dollon jail before he is extradited to Italy. Switzerland's highest court, the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne, agreed to the principle of extradition in 1983 — shortly after his escape.

Italy has accused Gelli of involvement in an array of sensational crimes, including the 1980 Bologna Railway Station bombing, which killed 85 people, and the collapse of the Vatican-linked Banco Ambrosiano in 1982.

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## Irish Protestant leader killed by IRA car bomb

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — An Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb killed John McMichael, a leading Protestant paramilitary leader, when he started up his car outside his home, police said.

The killing prompted fears there could be an upsurge in violence, with Protestant reprisals, over the usually quiet Christians period.

Police said the car blew up as Mr. McMichael, 39, turned on the ignition after leaving his home in Lisburn, 13 kilometres south west of Belfast, on Tuesday

night. He suffered severe injuries and died while being raced to a hospital, police said.

Mr. McMichael was second in command of the militant Ulster Defence Association (UDA), the province's largest paramilitary Protestant organisation. Its commander, Andy Tyrie, described him as the UDA's policy maker and principal voice.

Police said Mr. McMichael was the only person in the car. Earlier reports quoted neighbours as saying his bodyguard also was killed by the bomb.

## Seoul president-elect wants formal relations with China

TOKYO (AP) — Establishing diplomatic ties with China after nearly four decades of enmity will be a top priority of South Korea's next government, South Korean President-Elect Roh Tae-Woo said in an interview published in a Japanese newspaper Wednesday.

"Exchanges with the People's Republic of China in the non-political sector have been under way, including economic, sports and cultural exchanges. With the (1988 Seoul) Olympics as an impetus, we will make greater effort to elevate the level of the exchanges," the nationally circulated Asahi Shimbun quoted Mr. Roh as saying in an exclusive interview in Seoul Tuesday.

During a Dec. 3 meeting at Patrick Air Force Base near Cape Canaveral, the intelligence officers said the Soviet FAE defence is designed to intercept U.S. rockets before they deploy their nuclear warheads, the source told the newspaper.

Mr. Roh, a retired army general, last week won South Korea's first direct presidential election in

16 years. He is scheduled to succeed outgoing President Chun Doo-Hwan in February.

"For closer relations between peoples and nations, direct dialogue helps deepen friendship," Mr. Roh told the newspaper. "South Koreans living in China have recently come to our country and there are signs of improved relations between China and Taiwan," he said.

"Those factors will help improve relations between China and South Korea. More dialogue and more exchanges will lead to a spontaneous development of diplomatic ties," Mr. Roh said.

China fought along with Communist North Korea against South Korea and the U.S.-led United Nations Command during the 1950-53 Korean War.

Such a system would be the first comprehensive defence in the world against intercontinental ballistic nuclear missiles, the newspaper said.

Just before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visited Washington earlier this month, he disclosed that the Soviets have been working on their own Star War missile defence and urged President Ronald Reagan to either drop his SDI programme or face a new arms race.

We don't know where the end is going to be. We don't know where it is yet," said Thomas L. Sheeter, head of the FBI's New York office.

Federal prosecutor Rudolph Giuliani announced Tuesday that a Federal Grand Jury had charged Mr. Meese's long-time

friend and former Attorney, E. Robert Wallach, and Meese's former financial manager, W. Franklin Chin, with racketeering and conspiracy to break racketeering laws. Both are from San Francisco.

R. Keit London, of Honolulu, an associate of Wallach and Chin, also was indicted on racketeering charges.

The indictment charged the three sought to illegally influence Mr. Meese, the nation's top law enforcer. But the attorney general was not accused of wrongdoing.

Mr. Meese, the nation's top law enforcer. But the attorney general was not accused of wrongdoing.

## COLUMNS 7&8

### Goethe Institute to run disco

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — West Germany's Goethe Institute is planning to operate an "artists' discotheque," to entertain those attending the Seoul Summer Olympic Games next year, officials have said. Ground-breaking ceremonies for a 1,000 person facility is to take place in Seoul the end of February. Goethe Institute spokesman Kajo Niggistich said. In an interview with the Associated Press, Niggistich said teams of young West German performers will be selected to offer a non-stop, three-hour long programme at the discotheque. According to the spokesman, the disco will not only feature music and dancing, but will also include fashion shows and other entertainment.

"Architecture, video and lighting will also play an important role in the project," said Niggistich. The Goethe Institute, working with the West German Foreign Ministry, is involved in numerous projects promoting West Germany's image in foreign countries.

Cost for the entire project is estimated at between 3 million marks and 4 million marks (\$1.8 million to \$2.4 million), Niggistich said.

### Over one-fifth of S. Koreans called Kim

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — More than a fifth of South Koreans have Kim as their family name, and one-fourth bear the surnames Lee or Park, according to a government survey released Wednesday. The survey by the Economic Planning Board said 21.7 per cent of the nation's population of 41 million go by the name Kim, 14.8 per cent are named Lee and 8.5 per cent are Park. It said the other most common names in the nation are Choi, Chung, Kang, Cho, Yun, Chang and Lim. The survey said people with the 10 most common names make